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plants, notably *N. lacustre*, and that many aquatic exogenous plants have dissected leaves, would lead to the conclusion that our plant had been an aquatic at some period of its history. My own conclusion in regard to it is that it was originally an aquatic, but under a gradual change of condition of its surroundings, probably the drying up in summer of the shallow water in which it lived, it acquired a form suitable for emersed conditions, became amphibious as it were. Possibly it would be better to suppose a marshy habitat, subject to fall and winter overflow, but as ponds and lakes usually preceded marshes it is perhaps best to trace this interesting case of heredity, if such it be, to them rather than to marshy ground.

CHAS. A. DAVIS.

Alma, Mich., Oct. 25, 1890.

Botanical Notes.

Appointment of Dr. Thos. Morong to the Curatorship of the Columbia College Herbarium.

After an absence of over two years in southern South America, during which time he has collected a very large and valuable representation of the plants of that region, Dr. Morong has returned in health and safety. All botanists will bid him cordial welcome, both on his safe return and his entry upon a new sphere of usefulness and activity. The trustees of Columbia College have appointed him to be Curator of their herbarium, a position which has not been occupied since the death of Mr. P. V. LeRoy. In this appointment an important step has been made in the progress of American systematic botany.

N. L. B.

Hepaticæ Britannicæ Exsiccatae, Carrington and Pearson; Fas. IV., Nos. 216-290; price 1£ 10s., Manchester, Eccles, England. As many of the British species are common to America, we take pleasure in commending these neatly prepared sets. They are bound in cloth, large octavo. We may state here that the hepatic collections of C. F. Austin were purchased by Messrs. Carrington and Pearson, so that it is to them that we must look for comparisons with many types of American species.

New Localities.—*Ligusticum Scoticum*, L. A few plants of this species grow beside the salt creek on the west side of Black Point,

East Lyme, Conn. A pretty close search of the salt marshes in this vicinity has failed to discover it at any other station, so that it must be accounted very rare in the State. It has, however, been collected by several persons on Fishers Island, N. Y., and is reported from Watch Hill, R. I., just over the Connecticut State line, but whether it is abundant or rare at these points I cannot say.

Desmodium sessilifolium, Torr. & Gray. This species was found in the extreme south part of the town of Norwich, Conn., near the track of the N. L. N. R. R. On the north shore of Trading Cove, which separates Norwich from Montville, rises a steep rocky and sandy hill covered with a mixed growth of hard woods, pitch pines, and hemlocks. The *Desmodium* grows, not very abundantly, on the warm southern slopes of this hill. More or less is to be found also along the banks of the railroad which here runs close along the west bank of the Thames river. Unfortunately the herbage beside the track is mowed so frequently that the plant does not get the chance to spread that it would otherwise have. Whether this species occurs also on any of the neighboring hills, or on the east side of the Thames, as seems not improbable, the writer has had no opportunity to ascertain.

CHAS. B. GRAVES, M.D.

New London, Conn.

Reviews of Foreign Literature.

Sur certains Rapports entre L' Arabie Heureuse et L'Ancienne Egypte, résultant de son dernier Voyage au Yémen; par le Dr. G. Schweinfurth. M. E. Autran, Genève, 1890.

Situated on the high road to India, the southwest corner of Arabia has been from time immemorial the rallying point for all the tribes of the far east, and notwithstanding its accessibility and reputed character for hospitality, it has been a comparatively little traveled country. The history of botanical exploration in Yémen began 128 years ago, when Peter Farskal joined Karsten Niebuhr's remarkable expedition and six months later died in Arabia, leaving a valuable collection of scientific documents, which were published by Niebuhr under the title of "Flore Ægyptiaco-Arabique." Forskal's plants are now pre-